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(54) Title: **ENDOCAN COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR THE TREATMENT OF NEOPLASMS**

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention features improved diagnostic and therapeutic methods for neoplasia treatment relating to endocan nucleic acid molecules and polypeptides. In addition, the invention features methods for monitoring the responsive of a tumor in a patient to therapy; methods for suppressing the growth of a neoplasm by inhibiting endocan expression or biological activity; methods for generating a promoter that directs expression of a heterologous nucleic acid sequence specifically to the endothelium of tumor blood vessels; and methods for using such promoters to deliver peptides to a tumor in a patient.

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